

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dynamically tracking a user session in order to authenticate and authorize a computer user to a plurality of separately secured remote applications, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a. storing security information for a plurality of computer users in a user profile database;
 - b. the user launching a first secured computer application on an application server;
 - c. receiving login information from the computer user at an authorization server coupled with the user profile database ~~login information from the computer user who has launched a computer application~~;
 - d. in response to step b c, creating a Session ID for the computer user with the authorization server;
 - e. storing at least a portion of the Session ID on the user's computer;
 - f. also in response to step b c, creating an object associated with the computer user or the Session ID;
 - g. storing the object dynamically in a directory stored in a directory server coupled with the authorization server and the application server;
 - h. copying at least some of the security information relating to the computer user from the user profile database to the object in the directory;
 - i. comparing the log-in information entered by the computer user to the security information for the computer user and allowing the computer user access to the ~~launched first secured~~ computer application if the user is an authenticated or authorized user of the first secured computer application;
 - j. the user launching a second separately-secured computer application on an application server;
 - k. ~~permitting other the second separately-secured computer applications launched by the computer user to reference application reading~~ the Session ID on the user's computer; and

j 1. the ~~other~~ second separately-secured computer applications accessing the object for the computer user on the directory server in response to the Session ID to authenticate or authorize the user for the ~~other~~ second separately-secured computer applications.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, the security information including authentication and authorization information.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 2, the authentication and authorization information including at least one of the following: user names, user IDs, passwords, public-key data, certificates, and access control information.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, the Session ID being based on at least one of the following: a date on which the computer user launched the first secured computer application; a time in which the computer user launched the first secured computer application; a TCP/IP address of the computer user; and a user name of the computer user.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the steps of creating a shopping cart and storing the shopping cart along with the object in the directory.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, further including the steps of allowing the user to select items to be purchased and storing information relating to the selected items in the shopping cart.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically tracking a user session in order to authenticate and authorize a computer user to a plurality of separately secured remote applications, the system comprising:

a user profile database for storing security information for a plurality of

computer users;

an authorization server coupled with the user profile database for receiving log-in information from a computer user who has launched a first secured computer application, for creating a Session ID for the computer user, for storing at least a portion of the Session ID on the user's computer and for creating an object associated with the computer user or the Session ID; and

a directory stored in a directory server coupled with the authorization server for dynamically storing the object created by the authorization server,

the authorization server being further operable for copying at least some of the security information relating to the computer user from the user profile database to the object in the directory, comparing log-in information entered by the computer user to the security information for the computer user and allowing the computer user access to the launched first secured computer application if the user is an authenticated or authorized user of the computer application,

the directory server permitting other separately-secured computer applications launched by the computer user to reference the Session ID read by the separately-secured computer applications on the user's computer so that the other separately-secured computer applications may access the object for the computer user on the directory server to authenticate or authorize the user for the other separately-secured computer applications.

8. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 7, the security information including authentication and authorization information.

9. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 8, the authentication and authorization information including at least one of the following: user names, user IDs, passwords, public-key data, certificates, and access control information.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 7, the Session ID being based on at least one of the following: a date on which the computer user

launched the first secured computer application; a time in which the computer user launched the first secured computer application; a TCP/IP address of the computer user; and a user name of the computer user.

11. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 7, the directory server being further operable for creating a shopping cart and storing the shopping cart along with the object in the directory.

12. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 11, the directory server being further operable for allowing the user to select items to be purchased and storing information relating to the selected items in the shopping cart.

13-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the other computer applications access the object on the directory server using a dynamic directory service.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 21, wherein the dynamic directory service comprises the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP).

23. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 21, wherein the dynamic directory service comprises the X.500 access protocol.

24. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 7, wherein the other computer applications access the object on the directory server using a dynamic directory service.

25. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 24, wherein the

dynamic directory service comprises the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP).

26. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 24, wherein the dynamic directory service comprises the X.500 access protocol.

27. (New) A method of authenticating and authorizing a user to a plurality of separately-secured computer applications, the method comprising the steps of:

the user remotely launching a first secured computer application from a user computer;

authenticating and authorizing the user to the first secured computer application by exchanging security information between the user and an authorization server;

storing at least a portion of the security information in an object within a dynamic directory on a directory server;

storing a link to the object on the user computer;

the user remotely launching a second separately-secured computer application on an application server;

retrieving the link; and

authenticating and authorizing the user to the second separately-secured computer application by exchanging the stored security information between the directory server and the application server.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the exchanging of security information between the directory server and the application server employs a dynamic directory service.

29. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the security information includes a Session ID that is stored in the object and in the link.

30. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the steps of:
one of the secured computer applications storing application data in the
object; and
the other one of the secured computer applications retrieving the application
data according to the link.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the one of the secured
computer applications is a shopping application, wherein the stored application data is
comprised of shopping cart information; and wherein the other one of the secured
computer applications is a check-out application.

32. (New) A system for authenticating and authorizing a user remotely
launching secured computer applications from a user computer, the system
comprising:

an authorization server for authenticating and authorizing the user to the
secured computer applications by exchanging security information between the user
and the authorization server when a first secured computer application is launched by
the user;

a directory server storing at least a portion of the security information in an
object within a dynamic directory, wherein a link to the object is stored on the user
computer; and

an application server implementing a second separately-secured computer
application for remote launching by the user, wherein the second separately-secured
computer application retrieves the link, and wherein the user is authenticated and
authorized to the second separately-secured computer application by exchanging the
stored security information between the directory server and the application server.

33. (New) The system of claim 32 wherein the exchanging of security
information between the directory server and the application server employs a dynamic
directory service.

34. (New) The system of claim 32 wherein the security information includes a Session ID that is stored in the object and in the link.

35. (New) The system of claim 32 wherein one of the secured computer applications stores application data in the object, and wherein the other one of the secured computer applications retrieves the application data according to the link.

36. (New) The system of claim 35 wherein the one of the secured computer applications is a shopping application, wherein the stored application data is comprised of shopping cart information; and wherein the other one of the secured computer applications is a check-out application.